

A Supplementary Act to the Act, entitled An Act for laying an Imposition on Negroes, and on several Sorts of Liquors imported, and also on Irish Servants, to prevent the Importing too great a Number of Irish Papists into this Province.

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Whereas there is a certain Clause in the said recited Act, encouraging Residents of this Province to build and purchase Ships and Vessels, thereby acquitting them from the Payment of several Duties on Negroes, Rum, &c. and it being represented to this General Assembly, That sundry Abuses have been committed by several Persons, Residents of this Province, by purchasing Vessels, and obtaining Registers, suggesting themselves to be sole Owners, when perhaps they have suddenly disposed of a great Part of their Interest in the said Vessels to Persons not residing here, and have still had the Benefit of the said Clause, as if all the Owners had actually resided here, after such Sale, to the defrauding of the Public: For prevention of which Abuses for the future, it is prayed that it may be Enacted.

II. And be it Enacted, by the Right Honourable the Lord Proprietor, by and with the Advice and Consent of his Lordship's Governor, and the Upper and Lower Houses of Assembly, and the Authority of the same, That the Owner or Owners of every Ship or Vessel residing in this Province, shall be obliged, either at the Time of Entry of such Ship or Vessel, or some Time before her Clearance, to apply him or themselves to the Naval Officer of the District where such Ship or Vessel shall load or unload, which Officer aforesaid is hereby impowered and obliged to tender to, and such Owner or Owners are hereby obliged to take, the following Oath, viz.

" You A. B. C. do swear that you are the true and only Owners of the Ship E. and have continued so, ever since the Time of the purchasing the Register by you now produced; and that you have not purchased the said Vessel, nor obtained the Register aforesaid, to the Use of, or in Trust for, any other Person or Persons whatsoever, nor for the Sake of evading the Payment of any Duties, in Favour of any Person or Persons whatsoever, that are not actually Residents within this Province.

III. Provided, That in case any Inhabitant of this Province, Owner as aforesaid, shall depart this Province, and go beyond the Seas about his reasonable Affairs, and Shall not be absent therefrom for above the Space of Twelve Months, in case any Vessel should happen in his Absence to require his Oath as aforesaid, such absent Person's Oath in such case may be dispensed withal, the other Owners Residents (if any there be) taking the same Oath, and the Benefit intended by the